

NASA Technical Memorandum 84895

**Publications of the Exobiology
Program for 1981
A Special Bibliography**

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**Publications of the Exobiology
Program for 1981**
A Special Bibliography

Compiled by

Linda G. Pleasant

*The George Washington University
Washington, D.C.*

Donald L. DeVincenzi

*NASA Office of Space Science and Applications
Washington, D.C.*



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INTRODUCTION

The Exobiology Program, within the Office of Space Science and Applications of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is the first and only integrated program to methodically investigate the planetary events which may have been responsible for, or related to, the origin, evolution, and distribution of life in the universe. Research supported by this program is divided into the areas listed below:

Chemical Evolution: The non-biological synthesis of biologically significant organic molecules under conditions presumed to have existed on the primitive earth or any primitive planet before the advent of life.

Organic Geochemistry: Analysis of ancient terrestrial rocks for organic molecules and inclusions of biological origin. The development of techniques for the isolation of organic matter and distinguishing organic matter of biological origin from that of non-biological origin.

Origin and Evolution of Life: Studies of the origin of essential life processes and systems including the nucleic acid and protein biopolymers, genetic information transfer, energy collection mechanisms, and cellular and sub-cellular structures. Understanding the evolution of primitive microbial ecologies.

Planetary Environments: Research dealing with characterization of microorganisms capable of surviving and/or growing in extreme conditions approaching those of planetary environments, development of methodologies and techniques for detection and characterization of life-related molecules in extraterrestrial environments, and development of methods for determination of planetary environmental characteristics important for chemical evolution processes.

Life in the Universe: Research and analysis in three distinct but related areas relevant to life in the universe: forms, abundances and reactivity of the biogenic elements; effect of planetary, solar and astrophysical phenomena on evolution of complex life; and search for extraterrestrial intelligent life by detection of signals in the microwave region of the spectrum.

Planetary Protection: Environmental protection of planets of biological interest against potential harmful contamination from terrestrial sources, which might occur during the course of future exploration, following explicit guidelines established for each planet, as well as protection of the Earth from hazards posed by returned sample missions.

Mars Data Analysis: Research directed toward simulation and interpretation of data from the Mars Viking Landers' organic analysis and biology instruments. To develop models for the unusual reactivity exhibited by the Martian soil.

The arrangement of references in this bibliography follows the division of research described above. Articles are listed alphabetically by author under the research area with which they are most closely related. Only those publications which resulted from research supported by the Exobiology Program and which bear a 1981 publication date have been included. Abstracts, theses, and oral presentations are not included because of their preliminary nature or the frequent difficulty in obtaining them.

Our intent in compiling this bibliography is twofold. First, we would like to provide the scientific community with an annual listing, which began in 1975, of current publications resulting from research pursued under the auspices of NASA's Exobiology Program. Secondly, we hope to stimulate the exchange of information and ideas among scientists working in the different areas of the program. To facilitate the exchange process, we have identified for each publication, by asterisk, the author participating in the program. Current addresses for all principal investigators are given in the Appendix.

We wish to thank all the participants in the Exobiology Program for their cooperative response to our request for a listing of 1981 publications.

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¹F. Eirich, Principal Investigator

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¹M.J. Klein, Principal Investigator

²J. Billingham, Principal Investigator

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APPENDIX: PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Paul I. Abell
Department of Chemistry
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

Luis Alvarez
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

Amos Banin
Department of Soil and Water Sciences
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
P.O. Box 12
Rehovot, Israel

Jack Barengoltz
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Dr.
Pasadena, California 91103

Els0 E. Barghoorn
Departments of Biology and Geology
Harvard University
16 Divinity Ave.
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Klaus Biemann
Department of Chemistry
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

John Billingham, M.D.
Code LX
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

William A. Bonner
Department of Chemistry
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94035

John C. Briggs
Department of Marine Science
University of Southern Florida
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Bob B. Buchanan
Department of Plant and Soil Biology
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

Theodore E. Bunch
Code LX
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

A.L. Burlingame
Department of Pharmaceutical Chemists
University of California
San Francisco, California 94143

Melvin Calvin
Space Sciences Laboratory
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

Susan Campbell
Department of Biology
Boston University
2 Cummington Ave.
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Glenn C. Carle
Code LXE
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

Sherwood Chang
Code LX
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

M.R. Christensen
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Dr.
Pasadena, California 91103

Lelia M. Coyne
Department of Chemistry
San Jose State University
San Jose, California 95192

John R. Cronin
Department of Chemistry
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona 85281

Margaret O. Dayhoff
National Biomedical Research Foundation
Georgetown University Medical Center
3900 Reservoir Rd., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

David J. Des Marais
Code LX
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

Donald L. DeVincenzi
Program Manager, Exobiology
Code EBT-3
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, D.C. 20546

Frederick R. Eirich
Department of Chemistry
Polytechnic Institute of New York
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Robert C. Fahey
Department of Chemistry
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, California 92093

James P. Ferris
Department of Chemistry
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Troy, New York 12181

Clair E. Folsome
Laboratory of Exobiology
Department of Microbiology
University of Hawaii, Manoa
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

George E. Fox
Department of Biophysical Sciences
University of Houston
Houston, Texas 77004

Sidney W. Fox
Institute for Molecular and Cellular
Evolution
University of Miami
521 Anastasia
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

E. Imre Friedmann
Department of Biological Sciences
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306

Jane Gibson
Division of Biological Sciences
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14853

David W. Gidley
Department of Physics
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

Stjepko Golubic
Department of Biology
Boston University
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Harlyn O. Halvorson
Rosenstiel Basic Medical Sciences Research
Center
Brandeis University
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154

Hyman Hartman
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

John M. Hayes
Department of Chemistry
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47405

Lawrence I. Hochstein
Code LX
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

Robert L. Huguenin
Department of Physics/Astronomy-Hasbrouck
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003

Linda Jahnke
Code LX
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

Richard D. Johnson
Code LB
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

Thomas H. Jukes
Space Sciences Laboratory
University of California
1414 South Harbor Way
Richmond, California 94804

Isaac R. Kaplan
Institute of Geophysics and Planetary
Physics
University of California
Los Angeles, California 90024

John F. Kerridge
Institute of Geophysics and Planetary
Physics
University of California
Los Angeles, California 90024

Harold P. Klein
Code L
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

Michael J. Klein
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Dr.
Pasadena, California 91103

William R. Kuhn
Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic
Science
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

James C. Lacey, Jr.
Laboratory of Molecular Biology
University of Alabama
University Station
Birmingham, Alabama 35294

N. Lahav
Faculty of Agriculture
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Rehovot, Israel

Janos K. Lanyi
Department of Physiology and Biophysics
University of California
Irvine, California 92717

James G. Lawless
Code LX
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

Edward R. Leadbetter
Department of Biology
University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut 06268

Ralph A. Lewin
Marine Biology Research Division
Scripps Institute of Oceanography
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, California 92093

John S. Lewis
Department of Earth and Planetary
Sciences
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Alan Campbell Ling
Department of Chemistry
San Jose State University
San Jose, California 95192

Gilda H. Loew
Molecular Research Institute
701 Welch Rd.
Palo Alto, California 94035

Robert D. MacElroy
Code LX
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

Lynn Margulis
Department of Biology
Boston University
2 Cummington St.
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Janet A. Mercer-Smith
Department of Biophysics
Rockefeller University
1230 York Ave.
New York, New York 10021

Stanley L. Miller
Chemistry Department
B-017
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, California 92093

Harold Morowitz
Department of Molecular Biophysics and
Biochemistry
Yale University
260 Whitney Ave.
New Haven, Connecticut 06511

Bartholomew Nagy
Laboratory of Organic Geochemistry
Department of Geosciences
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Kenneth H. Nealson
Marine Biology Research Division
Scripps Institute of Oceanography
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, California 93093

James B. Orenberg
Frederic Burk Foundation for Education
San Francisco State University
1640 Holloway Ave.
San Francisco, California 94132

Leslie E. Orgel
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
P.O. Box 85800
San Diego, California 92138

John Oró
Laboratory of Biomolecular Analysis
Department of Biophysical Sciences
University of Houston
Houston, Texas 77004

Allen Peterson
Center for Radio Astronomy
Department of Electrical Engineering
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94035

Robert C. Plumb
Department of Chemistry
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

Glenn E. Pollock
Code LXE
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

Cyril Ponnampерuma
Laboratory of Chemical Evolution
Department of Chemistry
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742

Robert Rein
New York State Department of Health
Roswell Park Division
666 Elm St.
Buffalo, New York 14263

Alexander Rich
Department of Biology
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Arthur Rich
Department of Physics
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

Edward M. Ripley
Department of Geology
Indiana University
P.O. Box F
Bloomington, Indiana 47402

Carl E. Sagan
Center for Radiophysics and Space Research
Space Science Building
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14853

J. William Schopf
Department of Earth and Space Sciences
3806 Geology Bldg.
University of California
Los Angeles, California 90024

Charles L. Seeger
Department of Physics and Astronomy
San Francisco State University
San Francisco, California 94132

Grant Gill Smith
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
UMC 03
Utah State University
Logan, Utah 84322

Perry D. Stabekis
Exotech Research and Analysis, Inc.
1200 Quince Orchard Blvd.
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760

Walther Stoeckenius, M.D.
Cardiovascular Research Institute
School of Medicine
University of California
San Francisco, California 94143

Bernard Strehler
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Southern California
University Park
Los Angeles, California 90007

Tony Swain
Department of Biology
Boston University
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Jill Tarter
Code SSL
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

James W. Valentine
Department of Geological Sciences
University of California
Santa Barbara, California 93106

Helen S. Vishniac
Department of Cellular, Molecular and
Developmental Biology
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074

James Walker
Space Physics Research Laboratory
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

Arthur L. Weber
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
P.O. Box 85800
San Diego, California 92138

Frederick C. Wedler
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics
Althouse Laboratory
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Fritz H. Woeller
Code LXE
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

Carl R. Woese
Department of Genetics and Development
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois 61801

John H. Yopp
Department of Biology
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Richard S. Young
Executive Officer
The American Society for Cell Biology
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

G.U. Yuen
Department of Chemistry
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona 85281

Yuk Ling Yung
Department of Planetary Sciences
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California 91125

Leonard P. Zill
Code LXL
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

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